



Clark County Law Library

The Nevada Court Process



Understanding and using the court system can be overwhelming. There are laws, rules, forms, and legal terms to research and follow. In order to follow the correct procedures, it is important to know:

Whether a case is Civil or Criminal.

Which laws, codes, or statutes apply to a case.

What you are trying to accomplish.

Jurisdiction - You will need to determine which court is appropriate for your situation. Information about Nevada courts may be found through links provided on the Nevada Legal Research page on the left side of our homepage at www.ClarkCountyNV.Gov/LawLibrary. Additional information about the courts may be found in Legal Guide 20 at www.clarkcountynv.gov/lawlibrary/Pages/Pathfinders.aspx.

Procedures - Court Rules provide rules of procedure for the Nevada courts. These rules govern issues including; but not limited to, court styling, how days are calculated and appellate procedure. The Court Rules of Nevada are available online at www.leg.state.nv.us/CourtRules.

The Nevada Civil Practice Manual is available at the Law Library and covers a variety of civil practice issues. It often provides useful information about laws, forms, and procedures.

Laws - Codes and/or Statutes are helpful to determine whether a law has been broken, which court to use, how to proceed, and how much time is allowed to act. It may be necessary to research Federal, State, County,

or City laws, which are available through links to our Research pages on the left side of www.ClarkCountyNV.Gov/LawLibrary.

Resources - Civil and Criminal Flow Charts display the basic court progression for Civil and Criminal cases. The Civil Law Self-Help Center provides Civil Case Tracks for Justice and District Court through their webpage at www.civillawselfhelpcenter.org. The Law Library provides a Criminal Justice Flow Chart which can be found in Legal Guide 22.

Legal Dictionaries and Encyclopedias provide specific legal information and definitions for terms commonly used during the court process.

Self-Help Books are written for non-attorneys. These books provide general information concerning legal topics. Self-Help books by topic can be found in Legal Guide 21.

Additional Resources - Legal Assistance is provided by several agencies working with specific issues. Our staff can refer you to not-for-profit agencies offering legal assistance. A list of agencies is available in Legal Guide 24.

You can search the library catalog for legal titles through the link found on the right side of our webpage. Library staff can suggest research material, but cannot interpret laws, select material, or tell you how to proceed with a legal matter.

If you are in need of legal advice, the State Bar of Nevada offers a free Lawyer Referral Service that can be reached by calling 702-382-0504 or online at www.nvbar.org/content/lawyer-referral-information-service.